

### **V. REMARKS**

In the Final Office Action, claims 4-12 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Joeng (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016313), Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0031658) and further in view of Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Joeng discloses a liquid crystal display module that includes a light guide plate and a mold frame. The light guide plate guides light emitted from a lamp unit to a display unit to display an image. The light guide plate has a catching jaw and a projection formed by cutting at least one corner of a first end portion receiving the light from the lamp unit. The projection extends outwardly from a sidewall of the catching jaw and has a thickness thinner than that of the catching jaw. The mold frame receives the light guide plate and the lamp unit. The mold frame has a catching boss and a recess. The catching boss is formed at a first position corresponding to the catching jaw on a bottom surface of the mold frame to engage with the catching jaw to fix the light guide plate in the mold frame. The recess is formed at a second position corresponding to the projection in a sidewall of the mold frame to receive the projection.

Ozaki teaches a pattern display device that includes a pattern display unit and a front side display unit. The pattern display unit has a display portion for displaying a plurality of different first patterns. The pattern display unit performs a stationary display and a varying display. The front side display unit is disposed in front of the pattern display unit and displays a plurality of different second patterns overlapping with the plurality of first patterns. The front side display unit is transparent except for the plurality of second patterns. Also, the front side display unit has a matrix type display portion that displays the plurality of second patterns.

Loose reveals a spinning reel slot machine that includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. The plurality of mechanical rotatable reels, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image overlaying the reels with the video image interacting with the symbols on the reels. The video display is a flat panel transmissive display, in the form of a liquid crystal display, positioned in front of the reels.

Claim 4, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 4 recites that the front display device includes a liquid crystal display panel through which the variable display device is able to be seen, a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal display panel, which is disposed between the variable display device and the liquid crystal display panel, a panel frame and a base frame. Claim 4 recites that the panel frame has a panel frame peripheral portion and a panel frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the panel frame peripheral portion to form a panel frame receiving recess sized to receive the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate thereby forming a panel frame unit such that the panel frame peripheral portion surrounds the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate with the panel frame front portion defining a panel frame window. Claim 4 the base frame has a base frame peripheral portion and a base frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the base frame peripheral portion to form a base frame receiving recess sized to receive the panel frame unit such that the base frame peripheral portion surrounds the panel frame peripheral portion and the base frame front portion forms a base frame window generally corresponding with the panel frame window and contacts the panel frame front portion in a facially opposing manner with the base frame attached in front of the gaming machine for supporting the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate integrated by the panel frame.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 4 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a panel frame and a base frame as now recited in claim 4. More particularly, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that:

1. the panel frame has a panel frame peripheral portion and a panel frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the panel frame peripheral portion to form a panel frame receiving recess sized to receive the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate thereby forming a panel frame unit such that the panel frame peripheral portion surrounds the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate with the panel frame front portion defining a panel frame window; and

2. the base frame has a base frame peripheral portion and a base frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the base frame peripheral portion to form a base frame receiving recess sized to receive the panel frame unit such that the base frame peripheral portion surrounds the panel frame peripheral portion and the base frame front portion forms a base frame window generally corresponding with the panel frame window and contacts the panel frame front portion in a facially opposing manner.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 9, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 9 recites that the front display device

includes a liquid crystal display panel through which the variable display device is able to be seen, a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal display panel, which is disposed between the variable display device and the liquid crystal display panel, a rear holder which is disposed between the variable display device and the light guiding plate, for reflecting the light emitted on the light guiding plate to the side of the liquid crystal display panel with the rear holder having one or more opening allowing the symbols variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed, an antistatic sheet covering the opening of the rear holder, a panel frame and a base frame. Claim 9 recites that the panel frame has a panel frame peripheral portion and a panel frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the panel frame peripheral portion to form a panel frame receiving recess sized to receive the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate thereby forming a panel frame unit such that the panel frame peripheral portion surrounds the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate with the panel frame front portion defining a panel frame window. Claim 9 further recites that the base frame has a base frame peripheral portion and a base frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the base frame peripheral portion to form a base frame receiving recess sized to receive the panel frame unit such that the base frame peripheral portion surrounds the panel frame peripheral portion and the rear holder with the base frame front portion forms a base frame window generally corresponding with the panel frame window and contacts the panel frame front portion in a facially opposing manner and with the rear holder surrounding the anti-static sheet.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 9 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a panel frame and a base frame as now recited in claim 9. More particularly, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that:

1. the panel frame has a panel frame peripheral portion and a panel frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the panel frame peripheral portion to form a panel frame receiving recess sized to receive the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate thereby forming a panel frame unit such that the panel frame peripheral portion surrounds the liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate with the panel frame front portion defining a panel frame window; and

2. the base frame has a base frame peripheral portion and a base frame front portion connected to and extending perpendicularly from the base frame peripheral portion to form a base frame receiving recess sized to receive the panel frame unit such that the base frame peripheral portion surrounds the panel frame peripheral portion and the rear holder with the base frame front portion forms a base frame window generally corresponding with the panel frame window and contacts the panel frame front portion in a facially opposing manner and with the rear holder surrounding the anti-static sheet.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 5-8 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and include all of the features of claim 9. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 9 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

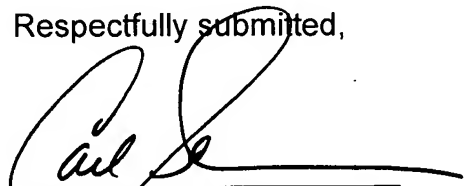
Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal  
Request for Continued Examination